

# Ideas

Your ideas are too new? Perhaps they need only further application and development to become accepted in public health practice beyond the limits of your health department, your community, or your clinic or your hospital. May we hear from you?

—THE EDITORS

## Cooperative Effort

**PHOENIX, ARIZ.** A cooperative venture in adult education, and the first program of its kind in Arizona put on a continuous basis, the Phoenix Food Handlers School was established by popular request.

The State Restaurant Association, the local hotel and restaurant employees' and bartenders' union, the Phoenix Technical School, and the State and city health departments all sponsor the school as a joint project. It opened early in 1952.

Recognizing the need for classroom demonstrations in sanitary methods of storing, preparing, and serving foods, restaurant association and union representatives took the lead in requesting health officials to set up a training course at the Phoenix Technical School. The four-part course, combining lectures and demonstrations, covers: basic bacteriology, personal hygiene, food-handling techniques, and insect and rodent control. Food-handling certificates are issued upon completion. So far, more than 1,000 catering employees have graduated.

Classes for restaurant and bar personnel had been conducted previously throughout the State, but the new course offers a permanent program. Day and evening schedules permit attendance at convenient hours. A special class is also held for Spanish-speaking people who do not understand English.

## Hearing Test Devices

**WASHINGTON, D. C.** Preschool youngsters can be reliably tested for hearing ability and have fun at the same time through devices developed by M. Lorraine Amos, audiologist at the District of Columbia Health Department audiology clinic, Gales Medical Center. Called the audiovisual stimulus response method, the technique makes use of a clown with flashing red nose, a transparent bunny or Mickey Mouse with light bulb inside, a toy electric washing machine, and the like. The young child is first taught that none of these happy devices will respond to his pressure on the signal button of the sound-producing machine until sound is actually heard through the earphones. Amplified tones that the child is certain to hear and a cut-off switch when the sound machine



By Harry Goodwin—*The Washington Post*.

is not working are used in this preliminary orientation period. Then the actual tests are begun to determine the degree of hearing impairment.

The method carries a great advantage in that children as young as 2 years of age can be tested and given help early enough in life to provide the best results.

## Aluminum Caps

**WASHINGTON, D. C.** Staff members at the Dalecarlia water filtration plant some months ago developed two techniques which save considerable time and expense in processing the fermentation tubes used in bacteriological analyses of water samples.

In place of the sterile cotton plug ordinarily used as a test tube cap, it was found that the unthreaded type of aluminum cartridge case usually provided for 35-mm. camera film could be used. These discarded aluminum cases are available in quantity at photographic shops. They offer the following advantages over the cotton plug: Slightly chipped test tubes can be safely used with these caps; faster manual handling is possible; and the aluminum caps can be sterilized and reused.

In the second technique, a special, large, mechanical washing unit was obtained which allowed assembled fermentation tubes and gas tubes to be cleansed effectively without separating them. This eliminates several time-consuming hand operations.

These two procedures would not necessarily provide advantages in a small water-bacteriological laboratory. However, in a unit such as the Dalecarlia plant, where approximately 100,000 fermentation tubes are processed each year, the saving in time and expense is considerable.

## TB Retakes Plus

**DALLAS, TEXAS.** The retake center of the mass tuberculosis survey is recalling individuals for a large film when the 70-mm. X-rays look suspicious. The center then offers them a screening test for diabetes as well.

Although some refuse the test, often friends and relatives who accompany them to the center will accept. The result—a greater number of persons are screened for diabetes than have retakes.

No publicity is given the auxiliary diabetes test. Each person is asked if he would like to take the test when he is being interviewed for additional information for the tuberculosis survey records.

The diabetic screening is done on capillary blood using the Wilkerson-Heftmann screening test and the Hewson Clinitron.